

Boyz II Men lead singer takes dream F-16 flight



Photo by Master Sgt. Will Ackerman, 8th FW/PA

By Master Sgt. Will Ackerman
8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Nathan Morris, founding member and lead singer for the award-winning Rhythm and Blues group Boyz II Men, fulfilled his lifelong dream Jan. 28 - to fly in a U.S. Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcon.

"To fly in an F-16 is a dream come true," Morris said. "I'm not really sure what to expect, but I'm excited," he said before the flight.

Morris was at Kunsan on the last leg of the Boyz II Men Asian tour.

Prior to the flight, 1st Lt. Jayant Mahajan, 80th Fighter Squadron, briefed Morris on safety items and emergency aircraft egress procedures.

A flight medicine doctor also made sure Morris was fit for flight.

"I couldn't believe how much information there was during the briefing, but it would have been important if an emergency occurred while we were flying," he said.

Life support members from the 80th FS then fitted Morris in a G-suit and helmet.

Finally, the time for Morris' dream flight was ready.

With the icy winter winds blowing through the aircraft flow-through, Morris and his pilot, Capt. Michael Abair, 80th FS, climbed into their F-16.

During the 30-minute orientation flight, Abair flew Morris over parts of the South Korean peninsula after performing an after-burner takeoff.

Following the flight, Morris had a smile that beamed wide.

"That was cool," Morris said after climbing out of the cockpit. "It was better than I imagined it would be. It was intense. I even got to fly (the aircraft) for a few minutes."

When asked if he ever considered joining the Air Force, Morris said,

"I considered it about a year before I signed my first record contract." That was about nine years ago.



Photo by Senior Airman Sarayuth Pinthong, 8th CS/VI

(Above) Tech. Sgt. Joseph Vest, 80th Fighter Squadron, tests a flight mask on Nathan Morris, lead singer for Rhythm and Blues group Boyz II Men, prior to his F-16 Fighting Falcon orientation flight Sunday. (Left:) Morris reflects on his orientation flight in front of the 80th FS F-16 he flew in Sunday. (Below) 1st Lt. Jayant Mahajan, 80th FS, straps Morris into the F-16 Fighting Falcon prior to his flight.



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